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Building Newsletter 4-1

Pedestrian Walkways and Connecting Links

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes 1994 Uniform Building Code: Chapter 4 Revision Date: January 1996

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I. Pedestrian Walkways

Section 409.7 of the Uniform Building Code does not permit a pedestrian walkway at other than grade to be used as a required exit unless the pedestrian walkway meets all the requirements of a horizontal exit including the following restrictions:

- A. A horizontal exit shall not serve as the only exit from a portion of the building.
- B. When two or more exits are required, not more than one half of the total number of exits or total exit width may be horizontal exits.

In Figure 1 below the structures are considered to be more than one building in accordance with Section 503.3 of the UBC if a horizontal exit is provided between the pedestrian walkway and each of the two structures.

II. Connecting Links

Connecting links are pedestrian walkways complying with Section 1005 of the UBC as corridors. The structures involved can be considered to be one or more buildings.

- A. If the structure is considered to be one building the total area must be within the allowable area based on the occupancy and type of construction per Sections 302.1, 504 and 505 of the UBC. See Figure 2.
- B. If the structure is considered to be more than one building through the use of an area separation wall complying with Section 504.6 of the UBC and Building Newsletter 5-3 then each building must comply with the requirements of Sections 302.1, 504 and 505 of the UBC. See Figure 3 below.





